Software Systems Verification and Validation

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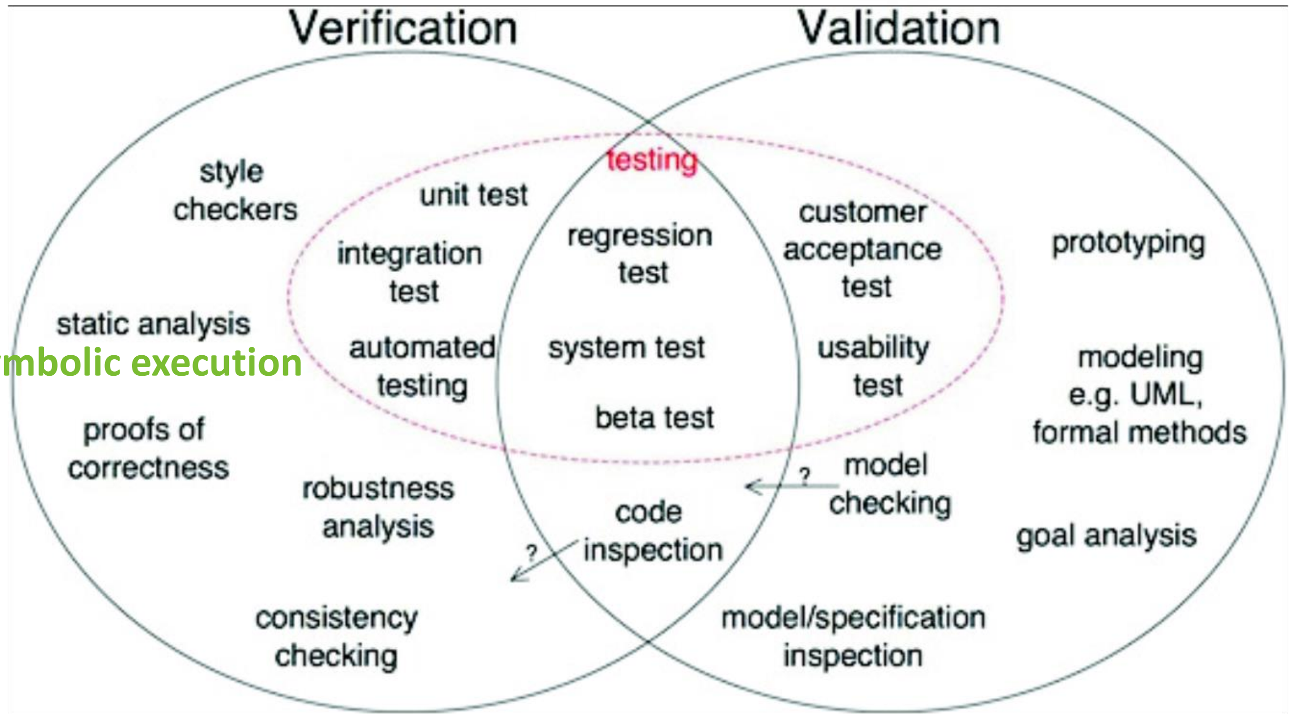
Lecture 11a: Symbolic execution

Sales paradigm - SSVV

- Motivate the STUDENT - what you will learn!



- http://www.easterbrook.ca/steve/2010/11/the-difference-between-verification-and-validation/

Outline

- Static analysis, Testing, Symbolic execution
- Conventional vs Symbolic execution
- Symbolic execution for sequential, alternative, repetitive structures
  - Sequential structure execution
  - Alternative structure execution
  - Repetitive structure execution
- Symbolic Execution Tree
  - Symbolic Execution Tree
  - Properties
- Questions

- Next lecture (still today)
  - Model checking

Static analysis
Symbolic execution

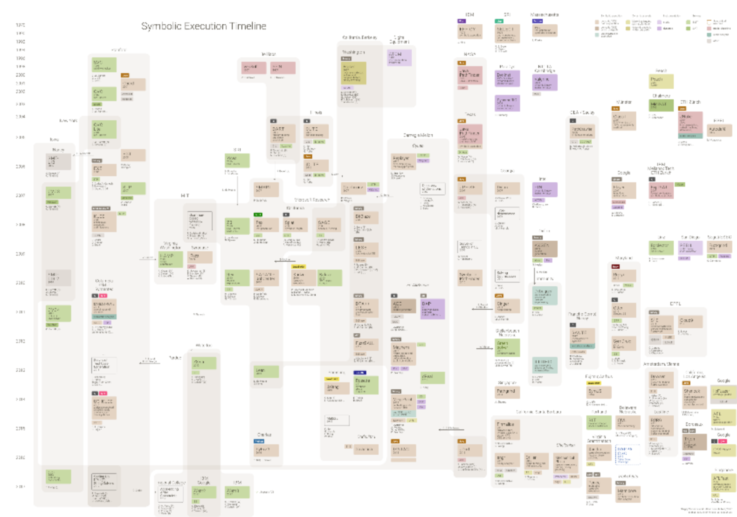
- Bugs that are missed by testing: rare features, rare circumstances, nondeterminism.
  - ➔ Static analysis
    - Can analyze all possible runs of a program
    - But, can it finds deep, difficult bugs?
      - Abstraction let us model all possible runs
      - Static analysis abstraction <> developer abstraction
- Testing works
  - reported bugs are real bugs, but each test only explores **one** possible execution. asssert (f(5)==6)
  - We ***hope*** test cases generalize, but no guarantees!
  - ➔ Symbolic execution **generalizes** testing
    - ➔ y=α, assert(f(y)==2*y+1)
- **Remarks**:
  - symbolic execution is not meant to inspect the quality of the code.
    - static analysis deals with issues of path feasibility,
    - dynamic analysis tends to deal with path coverage.
  - Symbolic analysis is sort of in between and deals with state space explosion by logically forking the analysis at branches and solving for a set of satisfiable constraints.

Symbolic execution - research

- **1976 - King [Kin76], Clarke [Cla76]**
- ....
- 2005 - Microsoft: DART [God05]
- 2006 - Univ. Stanford: EXE, Univ. Illinois: CUTE and jCUTE [SA06]
- …
- 2008 - KLEE (Stanford) [CDE08]
- …
- 1999 - 2016 - NASA: Symbolic (Java) Path Finder [PV09], [CS13]
  - http://javapathfinder.sourceforge.net/
  - http://babelfish.arc.nasa.gov/trac/jpf
- SAGE (2005 -DART)
  - https://patricegodefroid.github.io/
  - https://channel9.msdn.com/blogs/peli/automated-whitebox-fuzz-testing-with-sage - **video**
- https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security-risk-detection/
- PEX
  - https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/project/pex-and-moles-isolation-and-white-box-unit-testing-for-net/?from=http%3A%2F%2Fresearch.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2Fprojects%2Fpex%2F

- Modern Symbolic Execution Techniques
  - mix concrete and symbolic execution
  - Concolic testing (DART – Directed Automated Random Testing)
  - EGT (Execution-Generated Testing)
- 2017 -Learn&Fuzz: Machine Learning for Input Fuzzing
  - https://patricegodefroid.github.io/
- 2018
  - Chopped Symbolic Execution (ICSE) (2006 -EXE)
  - Shadow Symbolic Execution for Testing Software Patches
  - https://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~cristic/
- 2018 -Deep Reinforcement Fuzzing, Konstantin Böttinger, Patrice Godefroid, Rishabh Singh

- Symbolic execution timeline



Symbolic execution

What is symbolic execution ?

- Symbolic execution
  - Execution of program with symbols as argument.
  - Symbolic execution supplies symbols (as input to a program) representing arbitrary values.
  - int FunctionName(1, 2) → int FunctionName(a1 , a2)

- The execution proceeds as in a normal execution except that values may be symbolic formulae over the input symbols.

- Symbolic execution
  - Produces a concrete input (a test case) on which the program will fail to meet the specification.
  - But it cannot, in general, prove the absence of errors
- Key idea
  - Evaluate the program on symbolic input values
  - Use an automated theorem prover to check whether there are corresponding concrete input values that make the program fail.

Symbolic execution

Symbolic state

- **Symbolic state**
  - Set of (particular) concrete states, yet not instantiated.
  - Symbolic states represent sets of concrete states.

- A **symbolic state** is described by:
  - **Variables**, i.e. symbolic values/expressions for variables;
  - **Path condition** - a conjunct of constraints on the symbolic input values;
  - **Program counter** - the statement that is executed.

- All paths in the program form its execution tree, in which some paths are feasible and some are infeasible.
- Symbolic execution is a bug finding technique based on automated theorem proving:
  - Evaluates the program on symbolic inputs, and a solver finds concrete values for those inputs that lead to errors.

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Conventional vs Symbolic execution

Conventional execution (CE)

- Function Sum
- Normal execution result of Sum(1,3,5)
- 1 : int Sum(int a, int b, int c)
- 2 : int x := a + b;
- 3: int y := b + c;
- 4: int z := x + y - b;
- 5: return z;
- 6:

	a	b	c	x	y	z
1	1	3	5	-	-	-
2	1	3	5	4	-	-
3	1	3	5	4	8	-
4	1	3	5	4	8	9
5	1	3	5	4	8	9

Conventional vs Symbolic execution

Symbolic execution (SE)

- Function Sum
- Symbolic execution result of Sum
- 1 : int Sum(int a, int b, int c)
- 2 : int x := a + b;
- 3: int y := b + c;
- 4: int z := x + y - b;
- 5: return z;
- 6:

	a	b	c	x	y	z
1	α	β	γ	-	-	-
2	α	β	γ	α+β	-	-
3	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	-
4	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	α+β+γ
5	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	α+β+γ

Symbolic execution

Symbolic execution for **sequential**, alternative, repetitive structures

- **Sequential structure execution**
  - path condition
    - condition to execute a statement;
  - when the symbolic execution starts, the value(pc) = true
  - the condition is updated from one statement to other
    - If τ represents the condition to execute statement < I > then pc’ = pc ^ τ(I)

Symbolic execution

Symbolic execution for **sequential**, alternative, repetitive structures

Conventional **- Sequential execution -** **Symbolic**

	a	b	c	x	y	z
1	1	3	5	-	-	-
2	1	3	5	4	-	-
3	1	3	5	4	8	-
4	1	3	5	4	8	9
5	1	3	5	4	8	9

```
1 : int Sum(int a, int b, int c)
2 :     int x := a + b;
3:      int y := b + c;
4:      int z := x + y - b;
5: return z;
6:
```

	a	b	c	x	y	z
1	α	β	γ	-	-	-
2	α	β	γ	α+β	-	-
3	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	-
4	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	α+β+γ
5	α	β	γ	α+β	β+γ	α+β+γ

Symbolic execution

Symbolic execution for sequential, **alternative**, repetitive structures

- **Alternative structure execution**
- Symbolic execution of an IF statement
  - **if (η) then**

    A

    else

    B.
- **During symbolic execution** ➔ value(η) could be true, false, or some symbolic formula over the input symbols.

  ➔ "unresolved" execution of a conditional statement
- Path Condition (Initial value of pc is true)
  - pc → η
  - pc → $\neg\eta$

Symbolic execution

Symbolic execution for sequential, **alternative**, repetitive structures

Symbolic

Conventional **- Alternative execution -**

	x	b	If condition
1	6	-	-
2	6	False	-
3	6	False	6 modulo 2=0
4	6	True	6 modulo 2=0
6	6	True	6 modulo 2=0

```
1 : boolean IsEven(int x)
2 : boolean b := False;
3: If (x modulo 2 ==0) then
4:        b:=true;
     else
5:        b:=false;
6: IsEven:=b;
```

	x	b	Path condition
1	α	-	True
2	α	False	True
3	α	False	α modulo 2=0
Case (α modulo 2=0) is True			
3	α	False	α modulo 2=0
4	α	True	α modulo 2=0
6	α	True	α modulo 2=0
Case (not (α modulo 2=0)) is True			
5	α	False	not(α modulo 2=0)

Symbolic execution

Symbolic execution for sequential, alternative, **repetitive** structures

- Symbolic execution of an WHILE statement

  while (η)

  A

  endWh;

  B

- During symbolic execution ➔ value(η) could be true, false, or some symbolic formula over the input symbols.

  ➔ "unresolved" execution of a conditional statement

- Condition to execute A: pc for executing "while" and η.
- Condition to execute B: pc for executing "while" and $\neg \eta$.

Symbolic execution

Symbolic execution for sequential, alternative, repetitive structures

Conventional

	x	y	z	u	While condition
1	5	3	-	-	
2	5	3	1	-	
3	5	3	1	1	
4	5	3	1	1	1<=3
5	5	3	5	1	
6	5	3	5	2	
4	5	3	5	2	2<=3
5	5	3	25	2	
6	5	3	25	3	
4	5	3	5	3	3<=3
5	5	3	75	3	
6	5	3	75	4	
4	5	3	75	4	not 4<=3
7					
8	5	3	75	4	

- Repetitive execution -

```
1 : Power(int x, int y, int z)
2 :      z := 1;
3:       u:=1
4:       while(u ≤ y)
5:           z:=z*x;
6:           u:=u+1
7:       endwh;
8:
```

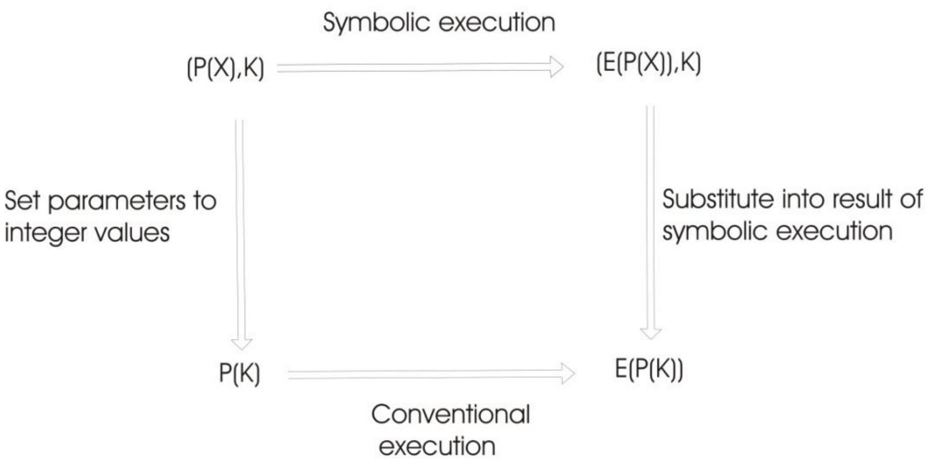
Symbolic

	x	y	z	u	Path condition	Remarks
1	α	β	-	-	True	
2	α	β	1	-		
3	α	β	1	1		
4	α	β	1	1	1<=β	
Case not(1<=β), ➔ 1>β						
4	α	β	1	1	1>β	
8	α	β	1	1		β=0 and z=1
Case (1<=β)						
4	α	β	1	1	1<=β	
5	α	β	α	1	1<=β	
6	α	β	α	2	1<=β	
7						
4	α	β	α	2	2<=β and 1<=β	
Case not(2<=β) and 1<=β, ➔ 2>β and 1<=β						
4	α	β	α	2	2>β and 1<=β	
8	α	β	α	2		β=1 and z=α
Case (2<=β) and 1<=β						
4	α	β	α	2	2<=β and 1<=β	
5	α	β	$α^2$	2	2<=β and 1<=β	
6	α	β	$α^2$	3	2<=β and 1<=β	
7						
4	α	β	$α^2$	3	3<=β and 2<=β and 1<=β	
Case not(3<=β) and 2<=β and 1<=β ➔ 3>β and 2<=β and 1<=β						
4	α	β	$α^2$	3	3>β and 2<=β and 1<=β	
8	α	β	$α^2$	3		β=2 and z=$α^2$

Symbolic execution

Commutativity

- The same result is obtained using normal execution or using symbolic execution.
- Conventional execution (CE)
  - Sum(a, b, c) → Sum(1, 3, 5)
  - Sum(1, 3, 5) = 9
- Symbolic execution (SE)
  - Sum(a, b, c) = $\alpha + \beta + \gamma$
  - Instantiate the symbolic result
    - → $\alpha = 1, \beta = 3, \gamma = 5$
    - → 1+3+5=9



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Symbolic execution

Symbolic Execution Tree

- We can generate symbolic execution tree characterizing the execution paths followed during the symbolic execution.
  - Associate a node with each statement executed.
  - Associate a directed arc connecting the associated nodes with each transition between statements.
  - For IF statement execution, the associated node has two arcs leaving the node which are labeled “T” and “F” for the true and false part, respectively.
  - Associate the complete current execution state, i.e. variable values, statement counter, and pc with each node.

Symbolic execution

Symbolic Execution Tree

```
1 : int Sum(int a, int b, int c)
2 :     int x := a + b;
3:      int y := b + c;
4:      int z := x + y - b;
5: return z;
6:
```

Symbolic execution

Symbolic Execution Tree

```
1 : boolean IsEven(int a)
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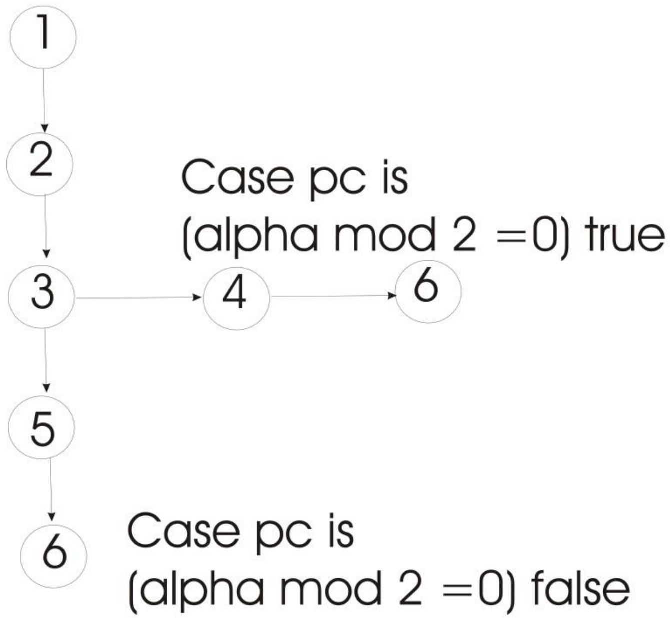

Symbolic execution

Symbolic Execution Tree

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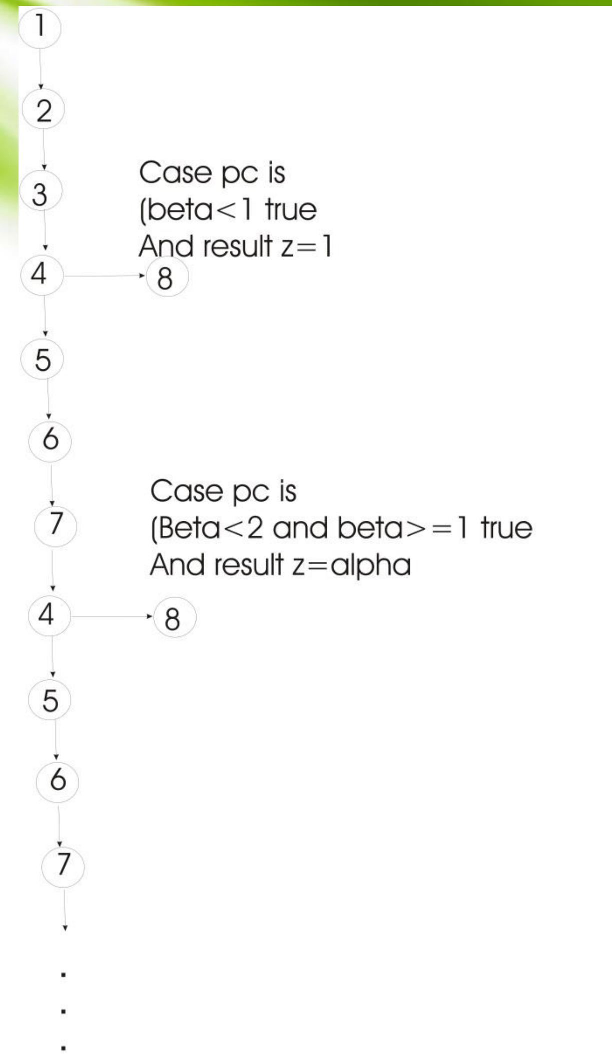

Symbolic execution

Properties of the Symbolic Execution Tree

- For each terminal leaf exists a particular non symbolic input.
- The pc associated with any two terminal leaves are distinct.

- Test case generation
  - to execute every statement at least once
  - to include execution of each branch both ways
  - finding input values to reach a particular point in a program

- Symbolic execution
  - Symbolic variables for input variables
  - Execute the program symbolically
  - Collect symbolic path constraints
  - Use constraint solver to generate test inputs for each execution path

- **Remaining problem** - to instantiate the pc with particular values.
- The **pc** specifies **a class of equivalent tests**, and any feasible solution to the constraints (represented by the pc) would be a representative member.
- The symbolic execution also provides expressions describing the program outputs for all inputs in this set.

Symbolic execution – research- **revisited**

- 1975 - First introduced
- 1976 - King [Kin76], Clarke [Cla76]
- 2005 - Microsoft: DART [God05]
- 2006 - Univ. Stanford: EXE, Univ. Illinois: CUTE and jCUTE [SA06]
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- 2008 - KLEE (Stanford) [CDE08]
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- 1999 - 2016 - NASA: Symbolic (Java) Path Finder [PV09], [CS13]
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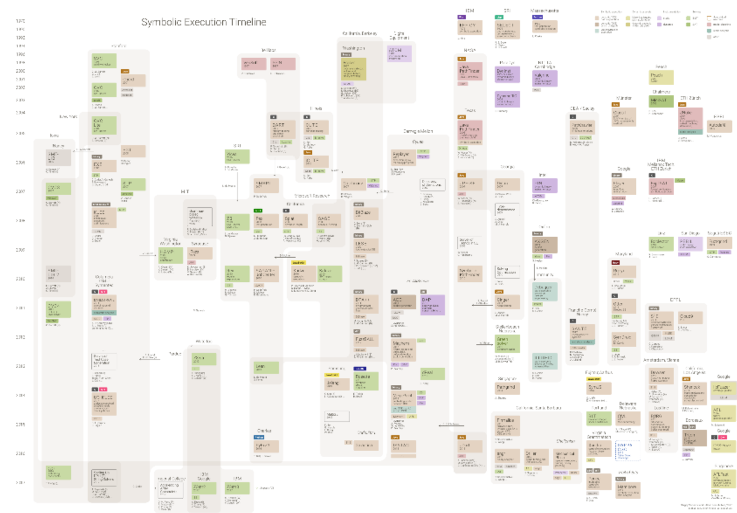
- 2018 -Deep Reinforcement Fuzzing, Konstantin Böttinger, Patrice Godefroid, Rishabh Singh

- SAGE (2005 -DART)
  – https://patricegodefroid.github.io/
  – https://channel9.msdn.com/blogs/peli/automated-whitebox-fuzz-testing-with-sage- **video**
- PEX
  – https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/project/pex-and-moles-isolation-and-white-box-unit-testing-for-net/?from=http%3A%2F%2Fresearch.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2Fprojects%2Fpex%2F

- Symbolic execution timeline



Surprise!

Symbolic execution

3-5 minutes

Formative Assessment

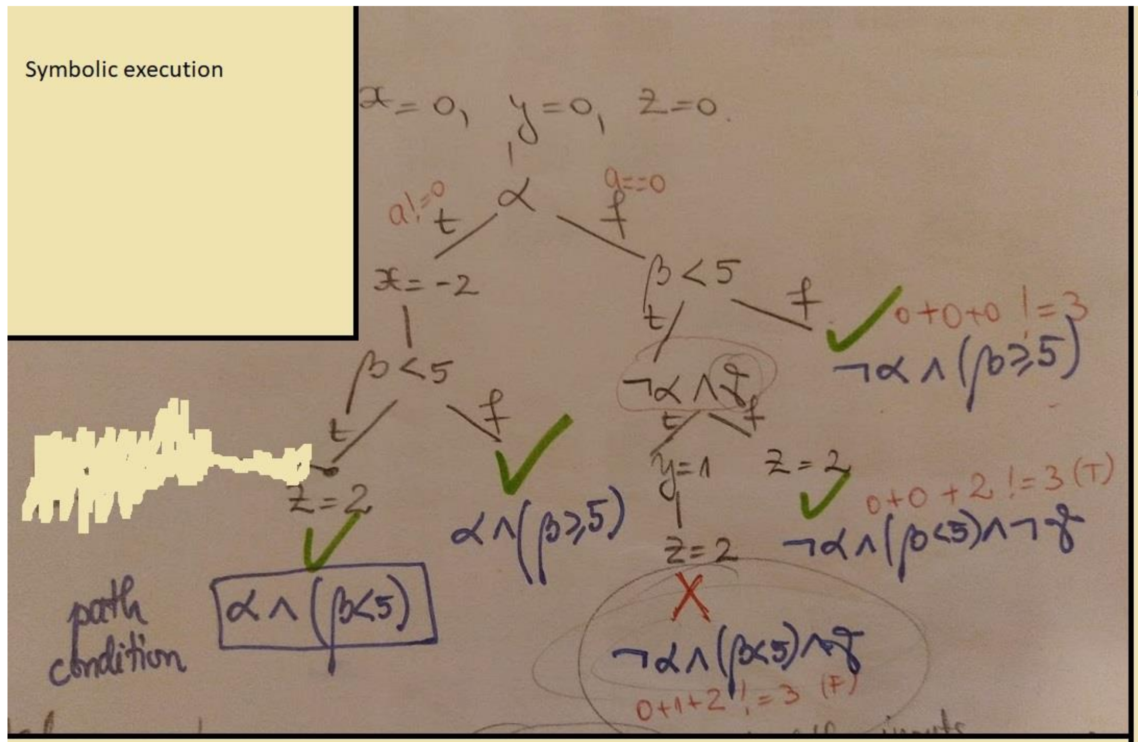
Anonymous voting

www.menti.com

Symbolic execution

Symbolic Execution – example -http://klee.github.io/getting-started/

```
// Edit SymbolicExecutionExample.c
void SymbolicExecutionExample(int a, int b, int c){
   int x=0, y=0, z=0;
   if (a!=0){
        x=-2;
     }
    if (b<5){
        if(!a && c){y=1;}
        z=2;
      }
    assert(x+y+z!=3);
}
```



Questions

- Thank You For Your Attention!

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